

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 ACDA-12 IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02  
DOE-15 CEQ-01 /139 W  
-----096267 200751Z /20

R 191214Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0285  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 12699

E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: MNUC FR PK  
SUBJ: PAKISTAN REPROCESSING PLANT

REF: ISLAMABAD 3750

FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF  
APRIL 10, 1978 "LE POINT" ARTICLE ENTITLED "NUCLEAR -  
KARACHI-PARIS: CONFRONTATION"

"PARIS AND KARACHI ARE AT ODDS. WHAT STARTED IT-  
THE REPROCESSING PLANT THAT FRANCE IS BUILDING FOR  
PAKISTAN. IT IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT THIS  
INSTALLATION CREATED TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.  
BUT, UP TO NOW, DIFFICULTIES WERE DUE TO US PRESSURES,  
OPENLY HOSTILE, AGAINST THE PROJECT. TODAY IT IS FRANCE.  
THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF KARACHI GAVE A FLAT NEGATIVE  
ANSWER TO THE NEW FRENCH CONTRACTING REQUIREMENT AND  
THREATENED TO RETALIATE.

"LET'S LOOK AT THE FACTS. AT THE END OF 1976,  
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FRANCE OUTLINED ITS POLICY FOR NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION,  
WHICH RESULTED IN RESTRICTIVE MEASURES ON THE EXPORT OF  
CIVILIAN NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT. CONTRACTS CONCLUDED  
PREVIOUSLY ARE NOT CALLED INTO QUESTION AGAIN BY THIS  
DECISION. THIS IS PRECISELY THE CASE WITH THE  
REPROCESSING PLANT WHICH THE FRENCH FIRM SAINT-GOBAIN-  
TECHNIQUES NOUVELLES (WHICH BECAME LA SOCIETE GENERALE

DES TECHNIQUES NOUVELLES AT THE END OF LAST YEAR) IS BUILDING IN PAKISTAN. THEREFORE, THE STRUCTURAL WORK IS PROGRESSING NORMALLY.

"BUT OBVIOUSLY CARRYING OUT THIS PROJECT DOES NOT APPEAL TO PARIS FOR VARIOUS REASONS: AMERICAN PRESSURES; THE INCREASINGLY AUTHORITARIAN GOVERNMENT OF THE PAKISTANI MILITARY WHICH GOES AS FAR AS SENTENCING TO DEATH THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER, ALI BHUTO; FINALLY, THE VERY DELICATE QUESTION OF NON-PROLIFERATION.

"THEREFORE, LAST WINTER, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TOOK TWO INITIATIVES. THE FIRST RESULTED IN THE PROHIBITION ON THE EXPORT OF VARIOUS ELEMENTS NECESSARY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PLANT. THE SECOND CONSISTED OF REQUESTING A RENEGOTIATION OF THE CONTRACT. IN FACT, THE FRENCH WOULD LIKE TO HAVE PAKISTAN AGREE TO A CHANGE IN THE INITIAL PROJECT. INSTEAD OF PRODUCING PURE PLUTONIUM, THE PLANT UNDER CONSTRUCTION WOULD PRODUCE A MIXED PLUTONIUM, WHICH HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF BEING TOTALLY UNSUITABLE FOR A POSSIBLE MILITARY USE. TO ACHIEVE THIS, THERE IS A NEW TECHNOLOGY WHICH IS UNDER DEVELOPMENT AND WHICH WOULD INCREASE SOMEWHAT THE PRICE OF THE REPROCESSING INSTALLATION. IN SHORT, PARIS WISHES TO HAVE ALL GUARANTEES (INCLUDING TECHNICAL ONES) ON THE CIVILIAN UTILIZATION, THEREFORE PEACEFUL, OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE PLANT. IN ORDER TO CONVINCE THE PAKISTANIS, VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING EVEN SENT A HIGH OFFICIAL TO

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DOE-15 CEQ-01 /139 W

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R 191214Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0286  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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KARACHI, ANDRE JACOMET, 60 YEARS OLD, CHARGE AT THE  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SPECIALIST IN  
PROLIFERATION QUESTIONS.

"HOWEVER, PAKISTAN IS TAKING THE INITIATIVE VERY  
BADLY. ITS VIEW IS THAT THE CONTRACT MUST BE CARRIED  
OUT AS IT WAS SIGNED, AND PAKISTAN IS PREPARED TO  
INTERRUPT ALL COMMERCIAL COMMITMENTS WITH FRANCE AS  
LONG AS THIS HAS NOT BEEN COMPLIED WITH. SO THE  
PAYMENT OF THE FIRST PART OF A CONTRACT ON THE SALE OF  
RENAULT-SAVIEM TRUCKS HAS BEEN POSTPONED AND CURRENT  
NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE PURCHASE BY KARACHI OF A CERTAIN  
NUMBER OF AIRBUS ARE THREATENED WITH SUSPENSION.

"THAT'S WHERE WE STAND TODAY. GISCARD'S SPECIAL  
REPRESENTATIVE WAS ASSURED AGAIN BY KARACHI THAT IT WAS  
NOT THE INTENTION OF PAKISTAN TO USE THE PLUTONIUM TO  
BE PRODUCED ONE DAY BY THE PLANT FOR MILITARY  
PURPOSES. BUT PARIS IS NO LONGER SATISFIED WITH THIS  
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PROMISE. PAKISTAN WILL THEREFORE HAVE TO GIVE IN OR  
BREAK OFF. UNLESS IT IS ABLE TO FINISH THE PLANT ALONE.  
IN FACT, IT OWNS ALL NECESSARY PLANS; BUT, BETWEEN  
THEORY AND PRACTICE, THERE IS WHAT THE ANGLO-SAXONS  
CALL "KNOW-HOW".  
HARTMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Subject:** PAKISTAN REPROCESSING PLANT  
**TAGS:** MNUC, SOPN, FR, PK  
**To:** STATE ISLAMABAD  
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